Rhizobium culture, micro-nutrients, sprinkler irrigation sets, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers' trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved pulses production technology.

Slums on Railway Property in Maharashtra

2366. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will come forward to solve problems of slums on the railway property by joining hands with the Maharashtra State Government for the purpose;

(b) if not, whether Government have any other scheme in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Resettlement/Rehabilitation of slum-dwellers is the responsibility of the State Government.

Import of High-Yielding Tobacco Seeds

2367. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of importing high-yiedling high quality tobacco seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CTRI has made any time bound programme to raise the present red soil tobacco yields in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. The collection of germplasm including of high yielding varieties from various countries is a continuing programme through National Bureau of Plant Genetic resources (NBPGR) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for evaluation, maintenance and release of promising lines suitable for different tobacco growing conditions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The yield level of Virginia tobacco in red soils has been improved substantially in the past due to release of high yielding blank Shank disease resistant varieties developed/identified by Central Tobacco Research Institute. The various high yielding and disease/pest resistant varieties developed/ identified during recent past, include CM-12(K), NLS-4, NLS-5 etc.

Non-Punctuality of Narzapur Express

2368. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narzapur Express in South-Central Railway is known for its non-punctuality;

(b) whether it is a fact that it has never reached Narzapur on time in 1996 so far; and

(c) if so, how does the South-Central Railway propose to improve the punctuality of this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The punctuality performance of Narzapur Express is satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise.

News item captioned "Pollution control scheme a non-starter"

2369. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned ""Pollution control scheme a non-starter", as reported in the Statesman, dated 28th July, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the scheme to have pollution checking centres at all petrol pumps in the city have failed to achieve its goal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND

FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the oil companies have begun an exercise of identifying the outlets which can install pollution check facilities. Presently, 43 outlets have the facilities, 59 dealers have received the pollution check equipment and are awaiting licence and 36 have applied for licence. The Government of Delhi has also hiked the pollution check fees per test to Rs. 25 for petrol vehicles and to Rs 50/- for diesel vehicles. Other measures such as computerised printing of test results of pollution check, and amendment of the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules for prosecution for malpractices in checking, have been recommended to become part of the pollution check procedure.

Delegation of Powers to state Governments under the forest (conservation) Act

2370. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government will consider the request of the Maharashtra Government to delegate the powers to the State Government to give approval for diversion of forest land upto five hectares for non-forestry purpose, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (CAPTAIN JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, this consideration will be in accordance with the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and subject to general policy decisions.

12 NOON

(The Deputy Chairman *in the Chair)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam...(interruptions).

The Leader of the Opposition (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Madam, *...{interruptions).*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Chaturanan Mishra.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Madras and related papers.

II. Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture and related papers.

III. Report and Accounts (1995-96) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi and related papers.

IV. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon and related papers.

V. Report and Accounts (1995-96) of the National Council for co-operative Training, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): Madam, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Madras, for the year 1994-95, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-854/96]

II. A Copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), Notification G.S.R. No. 148(E), dated the 25th March, 1996, publishing the Multi-State Cooperative Societies